

R E M A R K S

Claims 1 – 37 are currently pending. Claims 1 – 37 are subject to a restriction requirement. The Examiner has asserted that claims 1 – 26 (Group I) are drawn to a first allegedly distinct invention and claims 27 – 37 (Group II) are drawn to a second allegedly distinct invention.

First, without agreeing with the Examiner's characterization of the claims as being directed to distinct inventions, Applicants elect to prosecute claims 1 – 26. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled claims 27 – 36.

Further, it is Applicants' understanding that the basis for the restriction is that the claims of the first group (1 – 26) are directed towards processes while the claims of the second group (27 – 37) are directed towards apparatus for performing one or more of the processes. However, claim 37 is directed to a method, not an apparatus. Accordingly, it is Applicants' understanding that the Examiner inadvertently included claim 37 in the second group of claims while claim 37 actually belongs in the first group of claims. Accordingly, Applicants have not cancelled claim 37 and respectfully submit that claim 37 should be examined along with claims 1 – 26.

Further still, Applicants note that the Examiner supported the restriction requirement with the following assertion:

“Invention I can be practiced on a mechanical (i.e., not-computerized) slot machine.” Current Office Action, page 2.

Applicants are unsure as to what the Examiner means by “mechanical (i.e., not-computerized) slot machine”. It appears that the Examiner is implying that the devices of claims 26 – 36 are computerized slot machines. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26 – 36 do not recite a “slot machine”, much less a “computerized slot machine”. However, the claims do recite a “device” that includes “a processor”. Accordingly, Applicants wish to clarify on the record that it is Applicants’ understanding that the Examiner meant to convey that the methods of claims 1 – 26 may be practiced on a “device” that does not include a “processor”. If the Examiner intended to convey something different with the above-quoted statement, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify the different meaning of the above-quoted statement in the record, to aid Applicants’ understanding of the basis for the restriction requirement.

The specification has been amended to update information regarding a related application. No new matter has been added.

C O N C L U S I O N

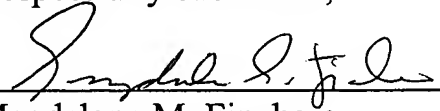
For the foregoing reasons it is submitted that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Alternatively, if there remains any question regarding the present application or any of the cited references, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Magdalena M. Fincham at telephone number (203) 461-7041 or via electronic mail at mfincham@walkerdigital.com.

Applicants do not believe any fee (e.g., for an extension of time with which to respond to the Office Action) is required at this time. However, if a fee should be necessary for the present Application at this time (or any time during the prosecution of the present Application), please charge any such required fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

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Date

Respectfully submitted,



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